



Field from where the
Federal's fought.

- Union fortifications
- Confederate fortifications
- Fortifications as they
were placed on hills

1, 2, 3, 4, facing

the turnpike. I was
up there one day last week,
and Mr. Beard, who now
owns Travelers Rest, showed
me these fortifications, which
are still plainly seen.

Juanita Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va. 53

BATTLE OF DUNCAN'S LANE

At the West Union School house at the foot of the mountain, on the road that leads to the Williams River country in 1864, lived Henry Duncan, in a double log house on the headwaters of Stony Creek. William Beverage lived about a quarter of a mile farther up the creek. Part of the passway between Duncan and Beverages was fenced on both sides as a lane. It was this lane that gave the battle its name.

The state was formed in 1863 and in 1864 a regiment of state guards was formed at Buchannon, and of this regiment Pocahontas furnished one company, captained at times by Capt. Samuel Young a minister, and later by Capt. Isaac Walton Allen.

This regiment had its headquarters at Beverley. These state guards were gallant soldiers and were exposed to all the perils and privations of the Civil War. However state guards in other states were placed, those in West Virginia were real soldiers and were the only state guards in the Union eligible for pension.

In 1864, the preservation of the union depended upon the reelection of Lincoln. A peace party had set about to defeat Lincoln, therefore, every vote counted. The county of Pocahontas was controlled by the Confederates, yet the little town of Edray was loyal to the Federal states. Therefore, it was determined by the West Virginia authorities to hold an election for president in the county. Arrangements were made to hold guard company was detailed to bring that election off.

They marched on foot from Beverly to Edray a distance of 54 miles going by way of Elk and reaching Edray a few days before the election. On its way in, the company camped near the headwaters of Elk River and one of the soldiers, Washington Neff, obtained leave of absence to visit

his wife who was visiting at William Gibsons. Here he was captured by a squad belonging Captain J. C. Gays Company of Confederate scouts and was taken captive to their headquarters at the farm of Samuel Gay. (just above where the Fair ground now is). That night in an attempt to escape Neff was shot and killed. Word of his death reached the company at Edray. Captain Young was in command, Captain Walton Allen was there, too. Every member of the company was a Pocahontas Man. It had been recognized as very dangerous to send one company into Confederate Pocahontas and they were already apprehensive of being in the very heart of this county. The death of Neff impressed them further with the dangers of their position. By this time there was a terrible cloud hanging over Edray district, and a pitch battle was imminent to be fought between men who had grown up together, but who had been schooled for four intensive year in civil war. However, the polls were opened under the oak standing near the home of William Sharp.

The soldiers all voted irrespective of age, and many of the citizens of the vicinity voted also. The vote was solid for Lincoln.

Aaron Moore was chosen as messenger to take the votes into the northerwestern part of the state where the existance of the government of West Virginia was recognized. The company of state guards prepared to act as his guard. It was decided best not to return to Beverly by way of the pike (now Seneca Trail). The return was to be made by crossing the river at Marlins Bottom, by Huntersville, and the Hill country, by Dunmore and Greenbank to the Staunton and Parkersbung Turnpike at Travelers Repose, thence across Cheat Mountain. The company reached Marlins Bottom but when they came in sight of the bridge they saw a Confederate soldier at the end of the bridge on horseback. When the horseman saw the Union soldiers he turned and galloped away. This